

Table Top

by Edén Phillipotts

CHAPTER III

Continued

"I paid Mr. Boss very well," continued the old man, "and we never quarrelled; but presently he appeared to lose interest in the birds and I felt they had ceased to be his first thought. He never let me into his secrets, however, and I was not concerned to learn them. He lived at Puno then, and was married with several children. I remember that towards the end of our collaboration, he told me that his eldest daughter was going to marry a man called Pardo, and I gave him a wedding present for her.

first act of Benny's story, so far as I know it, but I only saw the man again once. Physically, by the way, he was under-sized, but finely put together — immensely strong for a little 'un and as tough as teak. A broad, solid fellow with a big nose and yellowish, pale eyes — rather like your blue parrot's. No mind ever moved quicker, and he knew sometimes — in a mysterious way — what you were going to tell him before you opened your mouth."

Mr. Fernandez laughed at his thoughts. "Well, a year or two passed," he proceeded, "and I heard nothing of Benny. Then he called upon me at Lima and invited me to buy — not a bird, but a jewel. I have small interest in jewels and know nothing about them, but he showed me a remarkable, blood-red stone of great lustre set in gold. It was obviously ancient, but as to its quality and market value I could form no opinion. I supposed the stone to be a carbuncle, for it looked to be much larger than any

ruby I had ever seen; but Benny swore that it was a true ruby and worth five thousand pounds at the least. He maintained an air of great mystery and declined to give me any particulars. I advised him to take the jewel to an expert, but this he declined to do. "It struck me, knowing my Benny, that the red stone was probably stolen from some trusting native, and when he finally offered to let me have it for five hundred pounds instead of the sum he had claimed it to be worth, I felt more than ever suspicious. I had no mind to play fence for Mr. Boss and perhaps lend myself in possession of somebody else's property. So I told him there was nothing doing under such vague circumstances. "He left me after our conversation," and said that he was going to stop with friends at Lima for a few days and then return to his home beside Lake Titicaca. I never saw him again, but after a couple of years were passed, heard a further instalment of his story. Benny

now achieved notoriety, and was wanted by the authorities. Doubtless anticipating this demand, however, he evaded the challenge by making himself scarce. For a considerable while no news of his activities was forthcoming, and neither the members of his family nor anybody else could guess where he might be. "Meantime, his story and the charges against him saw the light. Two brothers — Emilio and Juan Garcia — had entered a secret partnership with Benny. It appeared that they found the money for the enterprise, while Mr. Boss supplied the brains and needless exertion. The gamble had been undertaken at Benny's inspiration, and he had fired the Garcia brothers with his own enthusiasm. As I have told you, it is historically certain that on the approach of the Spaniards, and before the capital city of the Incas fell to them, immense quantities of their treasures were removed from Cuzco, conveyed south, and buried in the waters of Lake Titicaca.

AMBITIOUS ADVENTURE

"Now these waters were in some places nearly three hundred yards deep, and to probe their fastnesses had demanded machinery and man power which would need more capital than was forthcoming. But Benny had his own theories on the subject, and they appeared quite sound. "He told the Garcias that it was unlikely the ancient people would have cast away their wealth — their insignia of office, crown jewels, golden statues, and all the rest of it — beyond the reach of recovery. Hope that their invaders might yet be conquered and driven out of Peru still remained.

"This argued, comparatively shallow water, and for Benny the problem had been to judge where most probably among the wide margins and estuaries of the lake their hiding-places were to be discovered. Only a man of extraordinary courage and sanguine nature would have thought twice about any task so apparently hopeless, but the fact remains that Benny aided perhaps by his reading of old authors, or simply servile conclusions which justified further exploration. He might have laid the facts before business people and made arrangements of a proper character, but he did not, and I am afraid the reasons for his line of action will presently appear. A straightforward, commercial deal offered no charms for the explorer, and knowing the Garcias reasonably well, he took his story to them, though not before he could show them some material to justify it. When Benny vanished, the brothers told their tale, and it was as follows:—

To be continued

WEST THURROCK, Eng. (CP) — Bucket-wielding householders helped the fire brigade battle a mile-long blaze along the Thames here when 20,000 tons of newspaper and two houses were destroyed.

The only polar bears in Finland are found in the zoo at Helsinki.

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

SPRAYING AND DUSTING BY AIRCRAFT

The Ladner Delta, Western and Lulu Islands at the mouth of the Fraser River in British Columbia are ideally situated for the dusting and spraying of farm crops. The land is almost a dead level, and the three areas are surrounded by deep drainage ditches inside of high dykes, that prevent the Fraser River and the Strait of Georgia from flooding the great Delta area, that in ages past was laid down from the sediment carried by the great Fraser River System.

Large areas of the farm lands are under contract to industrial companies to grow peas for canning and sugar beets for seed purposes. British Columbia is wonderfully free from some of the pests, insects and diseases that pester eastern farmers, such as the Colorado potato beetle, the pea weevil and the Atlantic pea moth etc. They do, however, have aphids and some insects and diseases that injure their two main cash crops in the Delta. The day before we left Lewis Road, near Ladner, the adjacent farm had ten acres of sugar-beets dusted in less than an hour. The company who had supplied the sugar-beet seed the previous season, and who would harvest, thrash and clean the seed, supplied the dust and engaged the airplane to dust the area.

The owner, watching the operation, said that the day was calm and the airplane flew very little higher than six feet above the sugar-beet plants, except where it came in line for his large barn and a neighbor's house. Then it shot up, almost straight into the air, turned and dropped down again as it came back over the barn. By flying so low the dust was blown right into the seed clusters, but the width treated on each strip was very little more than the width of the duster openings across under the lower wing of the biplane. The adjoining farms were also having their sugar-beet seed areas dusted, and when needed, their areas of peas dusted or sprayed as required.

The whole area of the delta is remarkably free from heavy winds. It very seldom has any frost and never has had any frost injury to sugar-beet seedlings, which are left in the field over winter. It has not nearly so much cloudy weather or fog as occurs in Vancouver and other areas nearer the mountains, and seems to be ideal for the cash crops mentioned. The field on the adjoining farm had an outstanding crop of peas that were ready to be taken to the pea-vineery, and work had been received by the owner that the equipment would be sent and the work of harvesting would start the

next day, July 11th, 1953. We frequently saw small planes land and take off from nearby farm fields, and did not hear of any forced landings in the three months we were in the neighborhood.

It may be of interest to many to learn of the biggest airplane spraying job yet undertaken. It was started last year in Resjouche County in New Brunswick from a base and an airfield known as Budworm City. It was called "Operation Budworm 1952", when 200,000 acres of forest in New Brunswick were successfully sprayed and the damage by the spruce budworm was checked in that area. This year "Operation Budworm 1953" extended over the counties of Resjouche, Victoria, Northumberland and Gloucester. Five airstrips were constructed and used, one each at Charlo, Kedgewick River and Boston Brook in Resjouche County, Rose Hill in Gloucester and Nictau in Victoria County, in addition to the one constructed last year at Budworm City. Spraying was carried out by 77 aircraft. They began their work on May 27th, and completed the spraying of 1,000,000 gallons of formulated DDT solution over 1,500,000 acres of New Brunswick forests by July 1st, 1953.

The insecticide was secured and stored in 45 gallon barrels near the airports. The insecticide tanks were placed in the front seat of the single-motored biplanes, which were operated under a general spraying contract held by Wheeler Airlines, a Canadian bush flying organization of St. Jovite, Quebec.

The area sprayed was divided into 350 blocks, and these were assigned to individual pilots who worked in pairs in a tandem arrangement developed from their experience of the previous year. One plane trailed the other by 500 feet and on a course about 200 feet to one side. The 77 planes laid a double swath, and sprayed insecticide over 2300 miles of forest from a height of approximately 100 feet above the tree tops.

The organization that carried out this gigantic operation was known as Forest Protection Limited. Mr. B. W. Pflieger was General Manager. It was financed by International Paper Co., Fraser Companies Ltd., Bathurst Power and Paper Co., and Irving Pulp and Paper, the New Brunswick Government and the Federal Government assisting.

Spraying could be carried on only when weather was suitable, and every effort was made to avoid any loss of time. In order to keep the pilots posted so as to ensure suitable conditions for spraying,

there were 18 weather recording stations set up in addition to the records taken by the operators of 10 fire towers. Weather conditions were closely checked over the area of "Operation Budworm 1953", and favourable periods were used.

The Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Fredericton, N. B., co-operated, and gave the go-ahead signal when the budworm larvae were most susceptible to the poison. Entomologists were stationed at Nictau, near Plaster Rock in Victoria County throughout the season, sampling results and carrying out research work on the project. Results in 1952 indicated that the budworm kill was over 99 per cent in the 200,000 acre area.

The manager said that their aim was to keep the trees alive: "By spraying we hope to keep the budworm from feeding on—and thereby weakening or killing—trees in large areas where the pest has been active for the last two or three years." Only two aircraft had to make forced landing during the campaign. One pilot lost his way in the dark and landed in a field at Robinsonville. Another aircraft after landing struck a fence and the plane flipped over. Both pilots escaped injury.

It is hoped that the check given the spruce budworm by these sprayings may enable the trees to live until the natural enemies of this insect gain control and stop the epidemic, that now threatens the spruce and fir of Eastern Canada.

These operations indicate that a great new field may soon be opened up for aircraft to assist Agriculture and Forestry by aerial operations throughout suitable areas in Canada.

Professional Cards

W. Albert Robertson
Chartered Accountant
F. E. L. MUTUAL BUILDING
Granville at Water Street
Summerside
DIAL 2854 P. O. BOX 681

B. F. HUNTER R. O.
OPTOMETRIST
Summerside, P. E. I.
Complete Visual Analysis
Glasses Fitted
PHONE 3116
SMALLMAN'S BUILDING

E. E. PARKMAN
Opt. D. O.
OPTOMETRIST
Glasses Fitted — Eyes Examined
Office Hours: 9 to 12 — 1 to 5
and by appointment.
PHONE 3287
REGENT THEATRE BLDG.
Summerside

A. Raymond Grant,
B.Sc., O.D.
OPTOMETRIST
288 Water Street, Summerside
Above Maurice Mill's Men's Wear
Phone 2539.
PHONE 2413

T. EARLE HICKEY
Chartered Accountant
Canadian Bank of Commerce
Summerside, P. E. I.
PHONE 2888

DR. J. A. BOIRON
DENTIST
Dental X-Rays
Smallman Building
SUMMERSIDE
Dial 2300

Dr. H. B. MacNeill
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON
Water Street (Opposite Holman's)
Hours:—
11:00—12:00 A.M. Daily.
2:00—4:00 P.M. Daily.
7:00—8:00 P.M. Daily.
DIAL 7052.

Final - Price Values Still Await You!

Yes, we still have some wonderful values that will remain on display all week! We are now nearing the transition from summer to fall goods, so, don't delay if you want to share in values that stirred the Island end to end!

Final Chance To Get Values Without Equal!

GREENDAL'S

MEN'S STORE
144 GREAT GEO.

LADIES' STORE
100 GT. GEORGE ST.

A Liberal Grain Crop This Year

Have You The Equipment To Handle Same?

TO MEET EVERY THRESHING NEED



McCORMICK THRESHERS

Thrifty to buy—Thrifty to own

SAVES ALL THE CROP!



McCORMICK No. 64 Combine

Biggest of the 6 footers

Smooth-running, easily operated, rugged McCormick Threshers offer the utmost in clean threshing and grain-saving performance. Two popular sizes, 22 x 38 inch and 28 x 46 inch, combined with a great variety of available equipment meet your every threshing need at surprisingly low cost. See us... NOW... for complete details on a new McCormick Thresher for your farm or custom work. Prompt delivery assured.

Many farmers report working a full gear faster because of the No. 64's big capacity. The extra big feeder—largest of any combine with full width cylinder—feeds short or shoulder high crops evenly into the cylinder. No slugs, no slowdowns even in thick tangled crops. Saves all the crop, putting extra dollars in your pocket. Call in and let us tell you how you'll finish harvesting faster and do it better with a new McCormick No. 64 Combine.

A Number of New and Used Binders and Threshers Available Now

BINDER and BALER TWINES, WHOLESALE and RETAIL

W. R. JENKINS

208 Gt. George St.

Dial 6563-6564

TO kill ACID

MORE MOTORISTS USE

M.S.* (Heavy Duty)

Marvelube

Canada's largest selling Motor Oil



See your **Esso DEALER**

*AS—new American Petroleum Institute classification denoting the most severe service conditions encountered. Marvelube meets all requirements for this type of service.